

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04  
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 SS-15 NSC-05  
L-03 /082 W

-----099892 272034Z /62

P 271811Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1075

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC

SUBJ: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 25-26, 1977:  
MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 6566; (B) BRUSSELS 5934; (C) BRUSSELS  
8567; (D) BRUSSELS 6296; (E) BRUSSELS 7642

### 1. SUMMARY:

DURING DISCUSSION OF MEDITERRANEAN ISSUES AT THEIR  
JULY 25-26 COUNCIL MEETING, THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS:  
(1) AGREED IN PRINCIPLE ON ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON AND ASKED THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
OF THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK TO CONSIDER PROPER  
MODALITIES; (2) DISCUSSED MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE IN  
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THE CONTEXT OF EC ENLARGEMENT; AND (3) AGREED TO  
SIGNATURE OF PROTOCOLS TO THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS  
WITH CYPRUS AND MALTA, WHICH WERE INITIALLED BY THOSE  
COUNTRIES AND THE EC COMMISSION AT THE END OF JUNE.  
END SUMMARY.

### 2. ADDITIONAL AID FOR LEBANON:

THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL AID FOR LEBANON (REFTELS A AND B) FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND AGREED TO ASK THE EIB BOARD OF GOVERNORS (WHICH IS COMPOSED OF THE EC FINANCE MINISTERS) FOR AN INDICATION OF THE LIMITS AND CONDITIONS THEY MIGHT CONSIDER FOR GRANTING SUCH AID, WHICH WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF ACCESS TO EIB LOANS ON MARKET TERMS. THE COMMISSION, EMPHASIZING THE POLITICAL NEED FOR EARLY ACTION, HAD RECOMMENDED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE 50 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (MUA-IUA\$1.12) IN THE FORM OF BANK CREDITS TO LEBANON. COMMISSION OFFICIAL (ANDRESEN) TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT THE COUNCIL'S DECISION TO REFER THE ISSUE TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE THERE IS AN OVERALL CEILING OF 800 MUA FOR EXTERNAL LENDING BY THE EIB UP TO 1981 OF WHICH 780 MUA ARE ALREADY PROGRAMMED. THE BOARD NOW HAS TO DETERMINE WHETHER ONLY 20 MUA OF ADDITIONAL AID CAN BE PROVIDED TO LEBANON OR WHETHER SPECIAL MEASURES WOULD PERMIT A HIGHER LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE. ANDRESEN PREDICTED THAT ADDITIONAL EC ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF EIB CREDITS AT MARKET TERMS FOR LEBANON WILL BE APPROVED BY OCTOBER, AT THE LATEST, AND THAT THE ONLY REMAINING QUESTION INVOLVES THE AMOUNT, I.E., 20 MUA OR 50 MUA.

3. MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE:  
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AS ANTICIPATED, THE FRENCH SUBMITTED THEIR MEMORANDUM ON REFORM OF EC RULES GOVERNING MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (SUMMARY OF THIS MEMORANDUM WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL). THE ITALIAN DELEGATION ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO THE GOI MEMORANDUM ON MEDITERRANEAN PROBLEMS, SUBMITTED EARLIER THIS YEAR (REFTEL C). ACCORDING TO A COMMISSION SPOKESMAN, COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS INDICATED THE COMMISSION WILL ITSELF PREPARE AN OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS, EMPHASIZING THE IMPLICATIONS OF EC ENLARGEMENT AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN MEMORANDA. THE SPOKESMAN SAID BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET (THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT) AND DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL URGED THAT THE COMMISSION STUDY BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE OCTOBER 17 MINISTERIAL SESSION OF THE GREEK ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS (SEE SEPTTEL), BUT JENKINS SAID HE COULD GIVE NO SUCH ASSURANCE. AT HIS POST-COUNCIL PRESS CONFERENCE, SIMONET EXPRESSED HOPE, NEVERTHELESS, THAT THE COMMISSION COULD DEVELOP TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS BY THAT DATE.

4. CYPRUS AND MALTA:

THE COUNCIL AGREED TO SUGGEST TO CYPRUS AND MALTA THAT  
THE SIGNING OF THE RECENTLY NEGOTIATED PROTOCOLS TO  
THEIR ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS WITH THE EC (REFS D AND E)  
BE SIGNED AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL AROUND MID-SEPTEMBER.  
WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE COUNCIL AGREED TO REITERATE TO  
THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS, AND IN INFORMAL CONTACTS WITH  
THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS, ITS INTENTION TO SEE THAT THE  
TRADE AND FINANCIAL PROTOCOLS CONCLUDED WITH CYPRUS  
ARE IMPLEMENTED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BENEFIT BOTH  
CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES.HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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